



C i t y o f A r l i n g t o n

2013 Federal Legislative Agenda



City of Arlington, Texas
ArlingtonTX.gov





(Back row left to right) Robert Shepard, District 6, At-Large; Jimmy Bennett, District 7, At-Large; Robert Rivera, District 3; Robert N. Cluck, Mayor; Kathryn Wilemon, District 4, Mayor Pro Tempore; Michael Glaspie, District 8, At-Large; Charlie Parker, District 1. (Front row left to right) Lana Wolff, District 5; Sheri Capehart, District 2;.



"The Arlington City Council is ready to work in partnership with the elected officials who represent us in Washington D.C. We appreciate their efforts to partner with us in order to help Arlington move forward towards greater success for our community and economy."

- Mayor Robert N. Cluck

nice yards, and safe places to walk and play. Funds for the project included City general revenue for street improvements, CDBG for acquisition, HOME for new construction and down-payment assistance, and private funds to meet the matching requirement. The program met its objectives by providing an opportunity for eleven income-eligible families to achieve the dream of homeownership. The properties will be affordable long-term due to reduced energy costs as energy-star certified homes. Before redevelopment, the taxable value of the lots ranged from \$12,000 to \$37,500. After development, values increased to between \$98,300 and \$118,100. The investment of grant funds increased the overall value of the eleven units by \$845,960.

Community Development Block Grant funds made possible a new neighborhood park in a low-income neighborhood in east Arlington. The lot was transformed from blighted and vacant properties to a spacious and family-friendly gathering place. Over 100 adults and children from the surrounding neighborhood attended the ribbon cutting on May 19, 2012.



Jordan Lane before (above) and after (below)



Valley View neighborhood park, before and after.

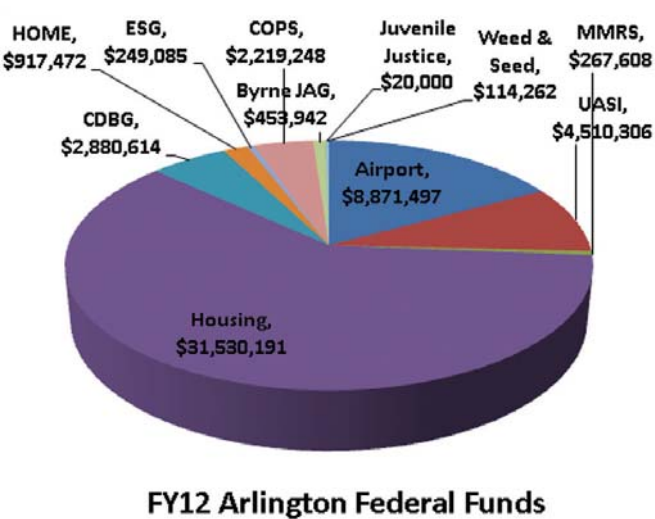


Sales Tax Fairness

The City of Arlington supports a federal solution to the online sales tax inequity. The current system is one in which online retailers do not have to charge sales tax unless they have a nexus of business in the taxing entity's jurisdiction. This creates an unfair disadvantage for brick and mortar businesses in Arlington which play an important part in our community.

Full Funding of Important Local Government Programs

The City of Arlington supports a reasoned and balanced resolution to the budgetary challenges facing our federal government. As a part of this solution, the City also supports restoration of funding to programs that have traditionally supported local governments and their ability to support the communities they serve. These programs, such as the Urban Area Security Initiative and Community Development Block Grants, help the City of Arlington meet critical needs, promote community revitalization and improve the local economy. Arlington is the 50th largest city in the United States and is located in the center of the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA. As home to several professional sports venues and entertainment parks, Arlington has an urgent need for assistance in continued funding for homeland security related equipment and programs. The City of Arlington is also particularly concerned about the impact steep decline in funding for CDBG and HOME since a peak in funding in FY 2001. Steep cuts to these programs have directly affected community development and housing programs. Funding through these programs not only provides direct assistance in the form of jobs and capital improvements, but often can spur additional investments from the private and public sectors, leveraging federal dollars to transform targeted neighborhoods physically and economically.



Urban Area Security Initiative funded equipment



For the five program years from 2008 to 2012, the City used federal funding to create 1,432 jobs and leverage over \$44.7

million in private and public investments from the approximately \$21 million in federal funding it has received.



Without the COPS grant funding, my career as a police officer would not have gotten started. I had 24 classmates in my academy class. Each person brought something unique to the table and we were able to learn from each other by supporting each other until we graduated. This funding provided me with an opportunity to start and further my career as a police officer with the Arlington Police Department. I utilize what I have learned to help make the community better."
- Quan Nguyen #2641

HOME Investment Partnership Program Success, Jordan Lane Single Family Owner Housing - The City identified an aging and deteriorating neighborhood in Arlington on Jordan Lane and worked with a non-profit housing developer to demolish nine substandard rental properties and construct eleven new energy-star certified homes for resale to low-income first-time homebuyers. The project turned around a neglected area from rows of unsafe structures and dumping grounds to a neighborhood with proud homeowners,

General Statement of City Legislative Focus

As a general policy, the City of Arlington seeks to preserve its current authority to govern the city, its citizens, and its property. The City will oppose any legislation viewed as detrimental to the City's strategic goals; or that is contrary to the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; or that mandates increased costs or loss of revenues; or that would diminish the fundamental authority of the City.

The City will support initiatives that preserve municipal authority or that otherwise have a positive impact on municipal operations, including but not limited to legislation that would:

- Maintain municipal authority,
- Eliminate or reduce the impact of unfunded mandates, or
- Preserve local control over municipal revenue streams.



FORMATION OF COALITIONS

The City will form strategic partnerships with cities, political subdivisions, and private sector entities that share common goals with the City of Arlington. Additionally, the City will work in coordination with organizations such as the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors when their adopted positions are in line with the legislative objectives and goals of the City. The formation of strategic partnerships and coordinated efforts is intended to provide the City with a stronger presence in the legislative process.

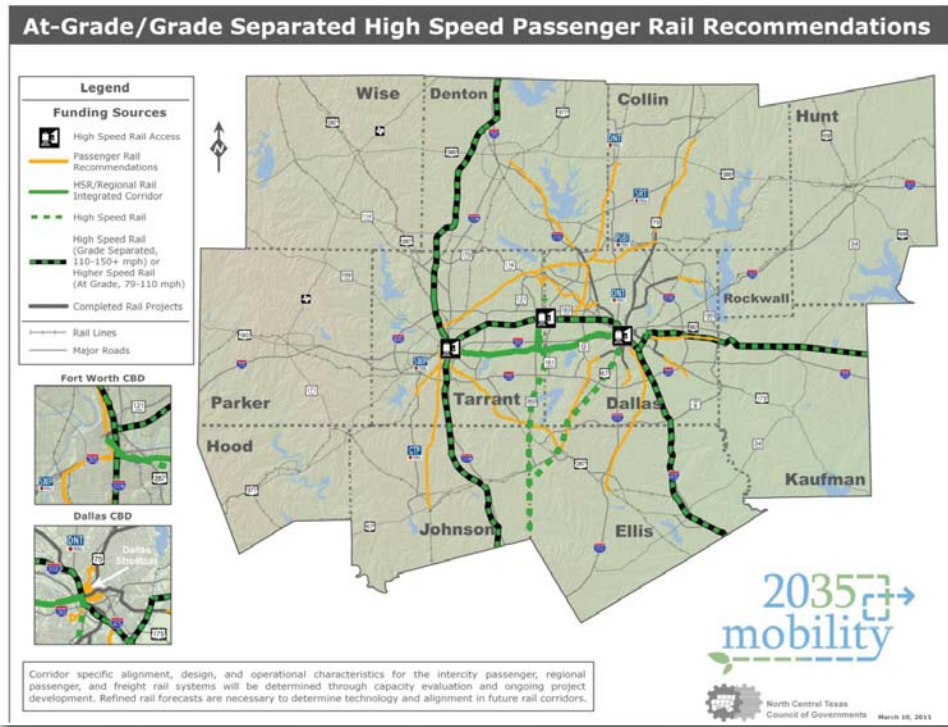
Surface Transportation

The City of Arlington supports the implementation of MAP-21 and the creation of a bill to succeed it when it expires in 2014. That bill should recognize

the key role that metropolitan areas and their center cities play in our nation's economy as well as providing grant opportunities for local communities in designing the future

of transportation in their region.

As a part of a sixteen county regional team, Arlington Council members serve as part of the North Central Texas Council of Governments Board of Directors and Regional Transportation Council (RTC), assisting with sub-allocation distribution of federal highway funds. The City supports the local control that the RTC brings to questions of North Central Texas transportation priorities. The perspectives of the RTC members give the Council a regional view as it plans for its future transportation projects. A forward-thinking successor to MAP-21 is an essential part of this vision.



Regional transit

Passenger transit opportunities -

The City of Arlington believes that the ability of the North Texas region to work cooperatively is essential to the viability of this community and that of the entire region. For FY13, the Arlington City Council has set a corporate priority to "Enhance Regional Mobility". Regional connectivity is a high priority for Arlington because it helps feed both the tourism and commercial markets within the city. A primary element of regional cooperation is a transportation system that seamlessly allows movement of people throughout the area. As a member of the thriving North Texas region, the City of Arlington is

committed to finding transit solutions to facilitate movement to, from and through Arlington and the surrounding area. As part of its effort to advance this initiative, the City has allocated funding in FY13 for a two year pilot program - a public-private initiative, to connect Downtown Arlington to the Trinity Railway Express. Arlington is also participating in discussions through the Council of Governments related to high speed rail and its potential connections in our region, our state and the nation.



Airport – A major contributor to Arlington's connections beyond our region is the Arlington Municipal Airport, a full-service general aviation "reliever" airport with 22 businesses and two flight testing facilities based at the airport. The Airport is completing construction on a 4,900 ft. west parallel taxiway which will open approximately 100 additional acres for development of aviation facilities. In 2012, natural gas revenues continued to fund improvements, and the procurement of new communications equipment was a top priority. The Airport upgraded its handheld radios to maintain communications interoperability with the Police and Fire departments. Analog radio equipment in the Control Tower was replaced with a digital system for improved air traffic/ground communication. Maintaining funding for the Airport Improvement Program and the Contract Tower Program is vital to sustaining the economic vitality of Arlington. These programs ensure adequate infrastructure funding and promote safe operations in airports, like Arlington, with a wide variety of flight operations in high-density airspace.

